

VERA M. GAMMON
ANOTHER HELEN KELLER

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HOUSE FOR THE BLIND**

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July 22, 1911

THE SURVEY

employees of the Chicago Telephone Company, which finds continual expression in the improvement of working conditions and in the loyalty of the employees to one another and to their employment. And it is mostly due to those in the leadership on both sides who combine something of the Seer and the Song with business Sense.

G. T.

ANOTHER HELEN KELLER

"The Helen Keller of Minnesota" is the title given to a girl of fourteen in the Minnesota State School for the Deaf at Faribault.



VERA MABEL GAMMON AND HER TEACHER

Vera Mabel Gammon became blind at the age of four and a little over a year after entirely lost her hearing as well. When she was admitted to the school, in January, 1907, her mind was a blank. Without hearing, Vera now hears through the sense of touch. Without eyes, she likewise sees.

To the average teacher her case would have seemed hopeless, yet she learned three words on her first day in school—*ball*, *doll*, and *bear* (*Teddy Bear*). Blanche Hansom, in whose charge she was placed, gave the child a ball to play with and then spelled b-a-l-l slowly into her hand. After this was repeated many times, the teacher by moving her fingers without spelling anything indicated that Vera was to spell the word. Vera slowly spelt b-a-l. All efforts the first day to get her to understand the double "l" failed, but on the second she acquired the mastery of this problem. Doll and bear were learned in the same

way. The child has never confused her words and objects.

After a large number of nouns had been taught first, verbs of action were explained by acting them out. Abstract qualities, such as beauty and goodness, were taught later by means of words previously learned. In the first four months the girl learned 355 words, within a year 1000, and at present she has a vocabulary of over 3000.

Her natural brightness is evident from the fact that it was only necessary to tell her the letters of the typewriter keyboard once. She has learned to talk, though she hears not a sound she makes, and makes towels, napkins, and pillow-cases. As is true in so many cases with the blind, her sense of smell goes far to make up for the lack of sight and hearing. When the laundry is returned each week unsorted, Vera can take out her own things purely by means of the sense of smell. In the same way she recognizes friends, and when in town is able to locate stores and tell where she is by scent.

All of these results have been secured in numerous cases before, though often only with the aid of private tutors for many years and at an expense which to the majority is prohibitive. The Minnesota State School for the Deaf seems in this case to have secured results comparable to what one might expect from long-continued individual care.

CHARLES H. KEYES

The Committee on Safety of the City of New York has established offices in the Metropolitan Building and announces the appointment as executive secretary in charge of their new work of Charles H. Keyes, who is now president of the National Council of Education. Mr Keyes was born in Wisconsin. He was graduated from St. John's College and later studied in the University of California, Clark University, and Columbia University, where he has completed the work for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy.

He has had an active career in school administration in New England and the west. He has been president of the Throop Polytechnic and of the Pasadena Board of Trade; secretary of the inspecting board of Wisconsin University, president of the American Institute, and treasurer of the National Education Association. He brings to the new post practical training and wide experience with men and affairs.

T. W. SPROWLS GOES TO PHILADELPHIA

Thomas W. Sprowls and his wife have been chosen to be the head workers of The University Settlement of Philadelphia. Mr. Sprowls, who is a graduate of the Chicago School of Civics and Philanthropy, was a resident at the Gad's Hill Social Settlement of that city and at the Chicago Commons. He performed both field and office work for the Relief and Aid Society and the Municipal Voters' League of Chicago, for which he also

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That there will be involved many trials and sacrifices as well as improvements of official and financial status is to be expected. This is, however, implied in the general missionary character of the vocation and no factor in the question is of more vital importance.

It is in consideration of such ideals that Mr. Kingsley's decision should receive unqualified approval. A brief review of his activities will show that, while administering relief with wisdom, he has steadfastly pursued a plan that has aimed at the roots of social difficulties. In 1904, after years of work in Boston, he became superintendent of the Chicago Relief and Aid Society. Standardization of methods and records was his primary effort. How well he succeeded those who are familiar with the office can testify. To this high standard the whole force associated with him responded earnestly, so that in recent time no credit that can be given Mr. Kingsley can be separated from that due to his colleagues. Early in his service the Relief and Aid Society addressed itself systematically and in much detail to infant welfare work. The summer baby tent work and the Mary Crane Nursery, an institution of exceeding value, are especial examples of that effort.

The Chicago Bureau of Charities and the Chicago Relief and Aid Society, at first quite distinct in function and purpose, had gradually begun to overlap in both. It was quite obvious to all concerned that this undesirable trend ought to be terminated by consolidation.

To this end Ernest P. Bicknell and Mr. Kingsley, the respective heads, addressed themselves. Soon after Mr. Bicknell was called to head the National Red Cross Society and Alexander M. Wilson, his successor, co-operating fully and with the utmost unselfishness, aided Mr. Kingsley in securing consolidation. Since that time Mr. Kingsley has been superintendent of the United Charities of Chicago.

The enlargement of scope gave more clear evidence of his breadth of view. Preventive philanthropy and standardization remained his watchwords. The introduction into the National Conference of Charities and Correction of a department of occupational standards, the follow-up service in the Cook County Hospital, the open-air school work, and the preventive work in tuberculosis are in a large measure due to Mr. Kingsley's insight and determination.

His technical and arduous duties do not prevent him from giving his time generously to allied organizations. It has been evident for some time, however, that his deepest concern is that conditions should be made right for the children. Here he finds the really serious effects of our social abuses. Here he finds the fullest opportunity for constructive work under the inspiration of a devotion to childhood that no one has in a greater degree. The early days of the Elizabeth McCormick Fund were full of helpful advice and administrative co-operation by Mr. Kingsley, and his final closer association is most natural.

That his aim is to be the best possible local service under this generous foundation, with the hope of giving to the world reliable data and methods for furtherance of child culture, is a matter of course. Viewed in that light, no field can be considered broader.

Full recognition of his taste and especial talent in the development of child study and opportunity leaves no doubt that he has gone on to his logical post in the work of social service. Chicago has reason to congratulate itself that his interest and judgment will as of old be at the call of its philanthropic interests.—HENRY B. FAVILL.

SEER AND SONG WITH BUSINESS SENSE

The president of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company is credited not only with being "the king of the wire," but "a man who sees business with the eyes of a seer." Others in big business can concentrate and drive—but Vail can look twenty years ahead.

Resenting the designation of a "mere business man," he is said to have exclaimed: "You may look at business as only a means of making money, but it may be as the sculptor looks at the clay. You may produce something—the beautiful statue that your hands can help mold."

It may have been this insight which led him to select as his assistant Angus S. Hibbard, who for eighteen years has been general manager of the Chicago Telephone Company. In the clubs and social circles to which he belongs, he is the favorite composer and leader of popular songs. No one can rouse the Association of Commerce, as he has done, to sing in a chorus of a thousand voices his songs of civic and industrial patriotism. But among the telephone people, all up and down the line, Mr. Hibbard is beloved as a man who has a genius for friendship. This sentiment was given unique expression at the farewell banquet tendered him by 1,500 employees from all departments of the service. One of the greatest banquet halls in Chicago rang with the tumultuous ovation with which they greeted him. Concealed telephone bells, differing in pitch, were attuned to play snatches of Mr. Hibbard's songs, in which the great throng joined as he led them from time to time. "Bully times we have had working together!" he exclaimed.

Of the operators he said: "Young ladies with brains, nothing automatic about them, the very best in the world." His imagination is said to have given the operators a real inspiration for their work in the thought of the universal service it renders.

In the relation of the telephone and the telegraph service, Mr. Hibbard predicted the development of "team work" on a larger scale than ever. He thus starts in to prove his chief's contention that "the telegraph and telephone are not competitive but complementary." The good-fellowship of this festive occasion betokens the good feeling long prevalent between the management and the

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